

Sunday and Feast Day Liturgical Notes for Priests and Deacons

Suggestions for Leading Worship



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RE: Liturgical Suggestions for the 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Cycle A

Sunday or Feast Day date: October 18-19, 2008

Dear Fathers and Deacons,

An Overview...

Focusing on the Gospel: Mt 22:15-21 (*Lectionary* no. 145-A)

To the point: The context of this Gospel is the escalating conflict between Jesus and the religious authorities of His day. Instead of shying away from it or defusing it, Jesus addresses the conflict head on. He has clarity about what is central – God and the kingdom – and so He is able to give to God what belongs to God: His very self. Discipleship requires of us nothing less.

Connecting the Gospel to the First Reading: Civil authority can be used to further God’s work. This is the case of Cyrus, the Persian king, who liberates the Hebrews from Babylonian captivity. But civil authority does not have an ultimate claim on people; our obligations are owed primarily to God, and secondly to Caesar.

Connecting the Gospel to human experience: We like to keep Church and state separate: taxes belong to the state, religious obligations to God. But often what we owe to God can put us in conflict with the state, for example, conscientious objection to war, policy decisions concerning the reverence for human life, poverty or the environment. When conflicts arise, is it Caesar or is

it God we serve? Today's Gospel is especially relevant in light of the world financial crisis and the upcoming national elections.

Questions for Sharing Faith...

1. What belongs to God in my life?
2. How do I demonstrate that "what belongs to God" is more important to me than "what belongs to Caesar"?
3. What do my calendar and daily responsibilities reveal about the priorities in my life?

(From *Living Liturgy 2007*, by J. Zimmerman *et al.*, Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press)

Some Other Considerations as you Prepare...

1. The first option for the Opening Prayer refers to God as the source of power and inspiration. This theme may be found in the first reading. The alternate Opening Prayer recognizes God as the guardian who cares for us. This theme may be found in the responsorial Psalm and in the Gospel.
2. The Fourth Eucharistic Prayer, with its proper Preface, may be a good choice for today. This Eucharistic Prayer emphasizes that those who share the Christian faith, but who still live in and be a part of the world, must no longer live for themselves but for the Lord spreading the Gospel.
3. The Preface for Ordinary Time III emphasizes that God will come to rescue His people. The Preface for Ordinary Time VI refers to God as the source of our lives and our being. It notes that each day God shows us the love of a Father and identifies the Holy Spirit dwelling within us as the source of our hope and unending joy.

Sample General Intercessions for the 29th Ordinal Sunday – Year A

Priest: With steadfast hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, let us pray to the Lord who calls us by name.

Deacon (or other reader if there is no deacon):

1. For the Church, that with allegiance to no human authority, we may lift up a prophetic voice on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves, we pray to the Lord.
2. For government and financial leaders, that they may wisely administer public resources with justice, respecting the welfare and needs of the people they serve, we pray to the Lord.
3. For military and diplomatic personnel, that, struggling to balance many needs and many injustices, they may subdue terrorism and uphold the safety of all, we pray to the Lord.
4. For those who suffer yet from the effects of having terminated a pregnancy, killed an elderly or ill person by euthanasia, or victimized anyone abusively, that the effects of pain and evil be overcome, we pray to the Lord.
5. For the sick of our parish, that they may be filled with hope, experiencing the support of the whole community, we pray to the Lord.
6. For this assembly, that fashioned in God's image and bearing Christ's name, we may render to God due worship and to our neighbor the love of Christ, we pray to the Lord.
7. For those who have been murdered in the crimes of abortion or euthanasia, and for all of our other dead, that, being called by name and grasped by God's hand, they may find eternal life, we pray to the Lord.

Priest: You alone, O God, are Lord, and there is no other.
Formed in your image, we bear the imprint of your face
and your name on our hearts.
In a world loyal to other powers,
may our life be governed by the standard of the Gospel
and the currency of your Kingdom.
May we freely render the honor and allegiance You alone deserve.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

(From *Prayers for Sundays and Seasons, Year A*, by P. Scagnelli, Chicago: LTP, 1997)